Article

Blended Learning in the Age of COVID-19- The Key to Success

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Abstract

The global epidemic has significantly impacted the education sector. Teachers have faced numerous challenges as a result of the pandemic condition. When it comes to teaching and learning, imparting online teaching has been the need of the hour. In light of this, numerous modifications in education policy have been made to ensure seamless operation. Due to the emergence of Covid 19, the education sector is experiencing unprecedented problems, forcing teachers to adapt and develop strategies to keep pupils engaged in the learning process. For teachers and students, the educational institute's digital transformation has brought many challenges and opportunities. The efficiency, consistency, and quality of education have all improved the quality of this transition. The modern workplace has grown increasingly technology-driven, and with it comes many new opportunities. Technology has the potential to alter education. It can strengthen and enhance educator-student connections, rethink our approaches to learning and teaching collaboration, close, long-standing equity and accessibility gaps, and tailor learning experiences to meet the needs of all students. A global epidemic impacts the education industry, forcing it to take different innovative paths. There are many advantages to adopting a virtual teaching mode but also some drawbacks to using this technology. When instruction becomes digital, faculties have less influence over their students. Using the online mode requires massive numbers of technology, and students can take their classes on their mobile phones and laptops. When any technology is in hand, it should be accompanied by instructions on how to use it.

Keywords: *education sector, Covid 19, strategies, learning and teaching, technology-driven.*

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Introduction

A global epidemic impacts the education industry, forcing it to take different innovative paths. There are many advantages to adopting a virtual teaching mode but also some drawbacks to using this technology. When instruction becomes digital, faculties have less influence over their students. Using the online mode requires massive numbers of technology, and students can take their classes on their mobile phones and laptops. When any technology is in hand, it should be accompanied by instructions on how to use it.

Since the pandemic has led the faculties to use digital technology, technology is more emphasised. The faculties also try to enrich class content. The little knowledge of how to use technology can be one factor that has led to learning among the teachers, and equally, students have learned to adapt to the changing technology. Controlling and monitoring the students is also essential when one knows that Covid 19 has impacted education and mental and physical wellness. Consistent change has now become the new normal. There is a rising need for educationalists and policymakers to change how information is presented, accessed, and shared to simplify learning.

Objective

1. To study the challenging situations for the teachers in imparting education during Covid 19

2. To understand changes in the policy of educational institutes for smooth functioning

3. To understand the challenges and opportunities due to digital transformation

4. To identify the strategy for education providers using digital technology

METHODOLOGY

This research was primarily descriptive research emphasising the importance of digital transformation, innovative tools, and its related challenges and opportunities. Information regarding this concept has been collected from the website, online articles, and ideas from the abstract journal. Based on the conceptual study, the paper discusses the various interpretations. Based on the analysis discussion, conclusions were drawn.

Redefining the Role of the Teacher for Imparting Education

Undoubtedly, the educational institution has implemented a diverse digital learning strategy. Nowadays, students need to adapt to the changing work scenario. The students need to understand the market and fulfil the company's requirements. The company expects that the students must be able to answer the question of essential knowledge and skills. As a result, teachers must devote their complete focus to grooming them, making them employable and company-ready. The online style of instruction has become increasingly popular.

Building Strong Work Culture for Smooth Functioning

There was a great need that was felt by the education sector to build on the new strategies as per the changing demand which is as follows:

- School closures due to COVID-19 have brought significant disruptions to education. However, the education sector took it as an excellent opportunity to adopt new modes of teaching and learning for the students.

- Faculties have their mindset and have changed a lot to learn new software and applications to make their classroom more engaging.

- The faculties and IT staff should adopt the blended mode of imparting education, and they need to change their mode of teaching. Not only this, but the students also raised their education level with the teachers, who have learned a lot about implementing new tools.

- Interaction and participation among the students can be possible when they come to the online classroom with little preparedness; it depends upon the

student's interest to participate in the particular format the class is being taken.

Unlocking Success in Digital Transformations Amidst Challenges

Now that the education sector is also updating, people tend to perform tasks more smartly than before, so initially, they need help to adapt to new technology, culture, or mindset. Before the online classroom system, there was a lot of reluctance and fear to acquire new skill sets or processes in the education sector.

With the advanced use of technology, students can be imparted good quality education. It is equally important to prepare the students to work in a dynamic industry where change always happens. There is a great challenge to impart education by adopting digital technology because it is essential to ensure their participation and monitor their learning. The faculties during pandemics take the online class and record the session to retain the same for future reference. Adopting digital technology needs a lot of support from IT members for smooth functioning. With digital transformation, having a good start for its successful implementation is equally important. There is a need for skilful employees for smooth digital transformation in the education sector. The same trained and expert facilities are provided to the students as instructors.

Realising Potential of Digital Technology in Education

The role of faculties has changed a lot and to a great extent with emerging innovation in the technology field.

The faculties need to maintain a learning attitude and a flexible mindset. They need to use the latest technology and software.

- Faculty must upload digital content so that the same may be available for the students at a convenient time.

- There must be crash courses for students to understand the primary benefits of technology adoption and digitally-driven learning programs.

- Faculty must be trained to adopt Online tools, gaming software, and quizzes to make the class more useful and interactive.

- Video lectures and PPTs shared with students may be accessed by the students when they need them.

- Faculty must use some engaging activities and give tasks to the students like live projects, assignments, presentations etc. It enhanced creative thinking and made them more interested in participating in online classes.

- Students need to express their thoughts and ideas. Online education provides that scope for students to express themselves without hesitation. They are given many alternatives to choosing their answer, giving them the confidence to express themselves, even if the answer is not coming to their minds.

- The mode of active learning is possible wherein the faculties provide the students with active learning opportunities through applying Case studies, group projects, or gathering and analyzing local data by engaging them.

- The course's curriculum must be updated, and content and delivery must be designed for online learning. Interesting material can be used to make them interested.

Digital Technology Transforming Education

The most effective teaching tools which are used by instructors during COVID -19 are as follows:

It is important to implement useful digital tools to expand learning opportunities for students.

- Education technology constitutes the foundation of contemporary development and advancement of students.

- Application of technology provides a high level of computer literacy.

- Computer-based testing makes knowledge assessment easier for teachers.

- The use of Hybrid education is not just to supplement but plays a vital role in

transforming and improving the learning process.

- Flip learning or hybrid learning continues to gain momentum.
- It is essential to provide virtual attendance, live chat, and face-to-face communication options to enable frequent interaction among teachers and students in real-time.

Conclusion

The Blended learning mode has become the new regular pattern, and the transformation has been taken positively. As new technology is coming up, there has been a tremendous change in the method of imparting education. Digital learning is not only enjoyable, but it has a lot many new features which are very attractive and easy to use. However, teachers must have a flexible mindset to provide a digital solution to the students. The blended teaching mode is impossible if there is a lot of knowledge gap and a fixed mindset in adopting digital ways of imparting knowledge among the students.

The combination of multimedia and instructional design makes the perfect recipe for a rich learning experience. The learners must constantly connect with the instructor and the content prepared so that we can say there is a need for the joint effort of students and teachers. There is a need to understand the importance of up-scaling, the knowledge by teachers in handling the technology for sustainability and integrating digitalization as it is a part of the educational process. At the same time, it is also essential that the learners must be consistent participants in the activities. For effective results, there must also be a provision of Pre-training for the students to learn and understand the system.

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